

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 NIC-01 /131 W

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R 281617Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6518

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, UR, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIETS MOVE BACK INTO MIDDLE EAST PICTURE

1. GROMYKO ARRIVAL IN SYRIA FEBRUARY 27 GIVES APPEARANCE OF PUTTING SOVIETS BACK IN MIDDLE EAST PLAY. TASS REPORT (CARRIED IN MAJOR DAILIES FEBRUARY 28) FEATURES HIS STATEMENT STRESSING CLOSENESS OF SOVIET-SYRIAN TIES AND NEED FOR UNITED AND COORDINATED EFFORTS IN PURSUIT OF ME SETTLEMENT. BY CONTRAST PRESS CONFINES COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO REPORT OF HIS ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS FEBRUARY 26, LEAVING READER WITH IMPRESSION THAT SECRETARY AND GROMYKO ARE BOTH IN SYRIAN CAPITAL.

3. IN PROBABLE BUILD UP FOR GROMYKO'S VISIT TO EGYPT PRAVDA ARTICLE BY CORRESPONDENTS BOL'SHAKOV AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GLUKHOV USES STATEMENTS BY EGYPTIAN ASU LEADERS TO BEAT

DRUMS OF CLOSE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION. ARTICLE
CITES SEVERAL ASU LEASERS AS THANKING SOVIETS FOR THEIR
SUPPORT DURING THE OCTOBER WAR AND QUOTES ASU CENTRAL
COMMITTEE FIRST SECRETARY HAFEZ GANEM TO EFFECT THAT
OCTOBER WAR SHOWED U.S. -SOVIET DETENTE IS NOT TAKING
PLACE AT OTHER COUNTRIES' EXPENSE. THAT POINT MADE,
ARTICLE TAKES ANTI-U.S. SLANT. IT SAYS ENEMIES OF
EGYPT HAVE TRIED TO SOW DISTRUST OF USSR AND CITES
ASU IDEOLOGIST RIFFAT AL MAKHGUB'S STATEMENT THAT
ASU PROPAGANDISTS HAVE BEEN COUNTERING SUCH EFFORTS
BY EXPLAINING THAT U.S. IS EMBODIMENT OF IMPERIALISM
WHILE USSR IS IMPERIALISM'S ENEMY.
STOESSEL

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005